

**Amendments to the specification:**

On page 1, line 3, please amend the heading as follows:

~~Prior Art~~ Background of the Invention

On page 1, please amend the paragraph contained in lines 4-6 as follows:

The invention is based on a device for automatically switching lighting devices in vehicles, ~~as generically defined by the preamble to claim 1.~~

On page 1, line 29, please amend the heading as follows:

~~Advantages~~ Summary of the Invention

On page 2, please amend the paragraph contained in lines 1-5 as follows:

The device of the invention for automatically switching lighting devices in vehicles, ~~having the characteristics of claim 1,~~ has the advantage over the prior art that even at different temperatures, reliable switching of the lighting devices is achieved.

On page 2, please amend the paragraph contained in lines 6-24 as follows:

~~In the dependent claims, advantageous features and refinements of the device of the invention are recited.~~ Upon abrupt changes in brightness, which are problematic in terms of the adaptation of the human eye, the refinement

~~according to claim 2, makes it is~~ possible to turn the lighting devices on even at relatively great brightness, thus improving visual conditions. ~~This is further reinforced by the refinement according to claim 3. The refinement according to claim 4 assures that turning~~ Turning on the lighting devices will occur after a certain travel distance of the vehicle, for instance in good time before entering a tunnel. ~~The refinement of claim 6 makes it possible to adapt the~~ The switching of the lighting devices can be adapted to weather conditions; if precipitation is present, they are already turned on at greater brightness than under dry conditions. ~~With the characteristics of claim 7, this concept is carried still further, in that the~~ The lighting devices are switched on at greater brightness when the intensity of the precipitation is increasing.

On page 2, line 25, please amend the heading as follows:

Brief Description of the Drawings

On page 3, line 9, please amend the heading as follows:

Detailed Description of the Exemplary Preferred Embodiments